adequate work for DDA engineers and have suggested that DDA should take up more construction projects.

DDA has further reported that a number of housing projects are under construction in various areas. In addition to the execution of residential projects, the engineers are required for supervision of commercial projects, development works, fly-overs, infrastructure for Commonwealth Games etc. Engineers are also required for planning, designing, quality control, vigilance, maintenance of land & building and other administrative works.

Modifying MPLAD Scheme

1900. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to abrogate or replace or otherwise modify the existing MPLAD Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to abrogate the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) under consideration. However, MPLADS Guidelines have been comprehensively revised and issued on 16.11.2005. The salient features of the revised Guidelines are given at enclosed Statement (*See* below). The Ministry has further sought views of all Members of Parliament, State Governments and the concerned Central Ministries/Departments for improvement in the implementation of the Scheme.

Statement

Salient Features of Revised Guidelines of MPLADS

Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is under implementation since 1993-94. The Guidelines under the Scheme were revised from time to time and lastly it was revised in April, 2002. Subsequently, certain clarificatory circulars have been issued. Now, a

comprehensive revision have been made and a fresh set of Guidelines has been issued on 16th November, 2005. These Guidelines are based on the feed back received from Hon'ble MPs, the suggestions of the Committees on MPLADS (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha), the observations made by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and the operational experience gained in the monitoring of the Scheme.

In the revised Guidelines, some of the improvements are as under:

(i) Important sectors like drinking water, education, public health, sanitation and roads have been given priority.

(ii) Earmarking of funds to the extent of 15% and 7.5% funds for the development of SC and ST inhabited areas respectively.

(iii) Automatic release of Rs. 1 crore in respect of MPs at the time of constitution of Lok Sabha and election to Rajya Sabha without fulfillment of conditions including monthly progress report.

(iv) Automatic release of first instalment in any financial year in those cases where two instalments have been released in the previous year.

(v) The role of Implementing Agencies, District Authority, State Government and Central Government have been clearly delineated.

(vi) Limit of Rs. 25 lakh of individual work has been removed while maintaining the same for Trusts/Societies/NGOs.

(vii) List of the permissible items have been removed. Instead the list of works prohibited under MPLADS has been given.

(viii) MPLADS works costing upto Rs. 10 lakh for natural calamities like floods, cyclone etc. by MPs from the non-affected areas of their State.

(ix) The maximum limit for rehabilitation of work in the affected areas by severe calamities have been raised to Rs. 50 lakh.

(x) A time frame for all the works completed from 1993-94 onwards has been prescribed for submission of Utilization Certificates and Audit Certificates.

(xi) Utilization Certificate the previous financial year and the Audit certificate for the funds utilized in the year prior to the previous year have also been made the pre-requisites for the release of the second instalment in a year.

(xii) The role of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban and Local bodies as Implementing Agencies has been stressed.

Statistical system in the country

1901. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that statistical system in the country is still outdated and as a result the various statistics prepared by Union Government and its agencies fall short of accuracy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to modernize statistical system in the country; and

(d) the results achieved/proposed to be achieved thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) No Sir. In general statistics generated by the statistical system in the country are based on scientific methodologies and correctly reflect the situation in the country. However, in view of evolving new methodologies or advancement in technologies/statistical techniques, there is always scope for improvement in the statistical system.

(c) Major steps taken by the Government to modernize the statistical system in the country are as follows:

(i) Setting-up of a National Statistical Commission,

(ii) Implementation of World Bank assisted project, namely, India Statistical Strengthening Project,

(iii) Setting-up of a Central Institute for training in official statistics,

(iv) Setting-up of a data warehouse of official statistics, and

(v) Introduction of advance techniques for data processing.